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Councillor Nick Kelly
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17 December 2021

Dear Mark

Re: Opposing Routine Discharges of Raw Sewage in Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats

As Britain's Ocean City and home to the UK's first National Marine Park the quality of our waters is of utmost importance. As we encourage more people to use our fantastic marine environment we need to be confident that it is a clean and safe environment. The practice of discharging sewage is a matter of great concern and with not a single river in our region meeting good chemical standards and only 14% of rivers across England meet good ecological standards it is clear accelerated action is need to dramatically improve this situation.

On the 22 November Plymouth City Council voted unanimously to pass a motion to oppose the routine discharge of raw sewage into Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats. In passing the motion the work that your organisation has already completed or is underway to help alleviate the issue of raw sewage discharge was recognised. The joint working approach to improving the drainage infrastructure across the City is also something we want to continue.

I appreciate the letter your colleague Bev Rowney sent on the 30th November providing a summary of the work and investment you have completed to date. Although we appreciate that progress has been made we do want to see more action on eradicating the practice of discharging raw sewage.

As Leader of the Council I am therefore writing to request that you provide us with your plans to eradicate the practice of discharging raw sewage in rivers and coastal areas around Plymouth and rivers that flow through the City. We would like to see a timetable and programme of actions which demonstrate a commitment to a phasing out and eventual cessation of discharging raw sewage. This is especially important as the impacts of climate change will result in increased rainfall events.

OFFICIAL

As you can see from Full Council's unanimous support of the motion this is a very important issue for the people and businesses of Plymouth and therefore request that you prioritise a response to this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, thin tail on the letter 'y'.

Cllr Nick Kelly
Leader of Plymouth City Council